

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes new Fig. 3. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1 and 3, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1.

New Figure 3, shows a longitudinal sectional view of the pig 46 of the apparatus of figure 1 on an enlarged scale from the showings in FIGS. 2a, 2b, 2c and 2d, and having end plates 47.

REMARKS

The Office action of August 8, 2005 has been carefully considered and the application has been amended accordingly.

A substitute sheet of drawing is presented adding FIG. 3 to show an enlarged view of pig 46 and end plates 47. This showing is supported in the paragraph at the top of page 5 of the specification and does not introduce any new matter.

The Abstract has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection.

The specification has been amended to introduce appropriate headings and reference to new FIG. 3.

Original claims 1-7 have been rewritten as new claims 8-14 to introduce idiomatic language for clarifying the claimed subject matter and for overcoming the Examiner's objections. In addition, new claims 15 and 16 are presented for consideration.

Regarding the patent to Morgan (US 3 991 825) and its application to the claims, the Examiner has correctly identified this as pertinent prior art, as it clearly has some features in common with the present invention. However, it is a very different device in its concept from that of the present invention, The apparatus of Morgan is clearly envisaged as a substantially permanent fixture (rather than a flexible hose system for retrieving a sample); it is a considerably more complex device in its down-hole features, in particular requiring

the large accumulator 18 and the transfer tube 28 supported by a packer 52, in addition to the tubes 16 and 50 (rather than a simple U-shaped duct); and in the complex nature of the piston 36 with its flow passage 38 and valves 88, as compared to a simple liquid-impermeable pig as defined in applicants' claims.

Further, the different mode of operation is also evident from the fact that Morgan's valve 22 allowing liquid to enter the accumulator 18 is essentially open at all times, and is at the lowest point of the equipment. In contrast, in the present invention, the inlet, non-return, valve is open briefly, and the position of the inlet valve must be above the resting position of the pig. A further distinction is that, in Morgan's system, the means to adjust the pressure is only able to change the pressure in one of the tubes (the airline 50), so that there is no means to use gas pressure to return the piston 36 to the bottom of the system in the well, so that the piston merely slides down under its own weight. Furthermore, Morgan provides no means for reducing the pressure in the airline 50, other than the possibility of opening it to the atmosphere, or supplying compressed air (at two different rates).

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that independent claims 8 and 12 (corresponding somewhat to original claims 1 and 5) patentably distinguish over the teachings and/or suggestions of Morgan. Also, it is evident that claim 13 is not anticipated,

as Morgan provides no means for decreasing the pressure in the tube "to below atmospheric pressure", but only allowing it to drop to atmospheric pressure. Similarly, as regards claim 14, Morgan provides a source of compressed gas to raise the pressure in his system, but does not provide a jet pump to decrease the pressure. These features of the present invention are clearly novel and not obvious.

Claim 3 has been rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Morgan in view of Kruka (U.S. 4,498,932). The subject matter of original claim 3 is now present in new claim 10. Applicants respectfully submit that the Krupa citation is taken from a different field of technology, namely, pigs used for cleaning underwater pipelines. This is not the same area of activity as the present invention which is primarily for obtaining samples of water from wells or boreholes. Furthermore, this again is a significantly different type of pig to that of the present invention, as it has a passageway through its middle, so it would be completely unsuitable for use in the present invention, as the water above the pig would fall down through the passageway! Applicants' parent claim 8 defines a pig that is "liquid-impermeable." Combined with the fact that claim 10 is dependent on claim 8, which as shown above is clearly patentable over Morgan, claim 10 should also be acceptable.

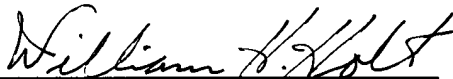
Claims 15 and 16 are allowable along with claims 8 and 12.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks,
reconsideration of the application is requested and allowance of
claims 8-16 is courteously solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required
fees associated with this communication and during the pendency
of the application under 37 CFR 1.16 and 37 CFR 1.17 or to credit
any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 082670. This sheet is
submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

November 8, 2005
Date


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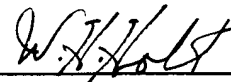
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